5/31/79

Dear Henry,

When I was in Dallas two years ago I permitted myself to be talked into going to New York of all things to defend the FBI against Mark Lane's fabrications on the King assassination, on Good Morning America. I've been intending to return to finish up what I intended doing on that trip but one thing after another has prevented it - other work and health.

I'd hope to make it this coming month but that now appear unlikely because I need regular blood tests to determine the level of anti-coagulent I require to keep the blood doing what it is supposed to do. It had been stable for a long time but then I hemorraghed internally and threw it all out of whack.

If it works out maybe I can make it soon. I'd like to.

Meanwhile I've been suing the FBI and other agencies under the Freedom of Information Act the hard way - without any real means and having to wait for Congress to amend the law over official abuses in one of my earlier cases. It happened, in 1974.

The amount of paper I've gotten may be hard to visualize - well over 100,000 pages in the JFK assassination only and I'm still getting it.

When I read the stuff - and most of it is an incredible paper monument to total dedication to the irrelevant (I'm not saying entirely pointless, only not relevant to the crime or any real investigation) I try to pay attention to content and to look for informational values usually not present. But every once in a while I see something I tell myself "My good friend Henry might want to read this." So when I do I make copies and lay them aside. As I say, I intended going there and bringing them.

Probably most of the copies I made for you are lost in one of the many stacks that accumulated during more intense periods of this FOIA litigation - never live testimony, always battles of affidavits of great length and many attachments - or at times of reduced physical capability. There are more than I'll enclose but I don't know where they are. If and when I find them I'll send or bring them. In time I'll have an index and will be able to retrieve from all I will have received. If you are interested.

Despite your prior FBI career and your knowledge of Hoover and those around him and those who had to conform whether or not this was their nature I doubt you can conceive the actualities of this case and all involved in it. I doubt there was ever a case in which the first law of cover the Bureau's ass was as literally followed into as many by-paths.

How far afield? Well, your relations with your brother Ney is included and a bit allegedly about him.

This was important to those fabled crime-busters and crime-solvers. What was not important is actual photographs of details of the crime and the environs, evidence of other shots and such eye-witnesses as any one of the trained police in the motorcade. I am not using figures of speech. Take me literally.

The Bronson film about which Earl Golz wrote and the Morning News carried frames of his movie is only one of the film I've discovered hidden (by reference) in the files I've gotten. Gary Mack of KFJZ-FM is following up on a few others. He can't find one person who had movies and the mother of another is polite but keeps putting him off until her son, who took the pictures, gets to Dallas from where he now lives, maybe 30 miles or so away.

I've gotten some of the results of the internal investigation of the Hosty flap. I've found where others are hidden and am fighting to get them. The actuality is that it was a very limited investigation designed to control what would be said and could be known and to box in any other investigation, like the one by Congress then and later. What is astounding is the number of people in the Dallas field office who knew of Oswald's visit and the note and its destruction and were totally silent about it. Some of the subsequent lying is transparent but it was not unwelcome at FBIHQ.

The records I have show no effort to trace the source of the leak. Not a single effort by anyone, anywhere. I suppose there are hidden records and that all references to it were kept out of all other files.

While I don't know what really happened it is obvious that the leaking was delayed until Shanklin's retirement was secure. I have a hunch that indirectly it started in Kansas City, where Hosty was transferred.

I'd know of the story for years, with other unconfirmed and unconfirmable details. I believe there is another one similar to it that has not come out, where the agent refused to accept disciplining and quit instead.

With this and other things like it and with what is of special interest to me I have separate files of copies under subject headings and can retrieve rapidly. I keep all the original records exactly as I get them. They are filed by FBI file number, in bound Sections. If I know the number and serial I can retrieve fairly easily. If you ever have any need or interest.

When I can get down there again I hope to have more time and that you also can find a little more so I can update you and get suggestions on how I might be able to follow up on some of the things I've learned about, like other shots. (There now is no reasonable doubt, someone patched the place on the curbstone that was hit by a bullet or a fragment, the FBI knew it and tried to keep it hidden and succeeded after it was forced to check.)

I've got records of their making scrapings for Lab examination but not the results of the examination. There is a fellow who found a spent rifle bullet not far from the place where the curbstone was hit. The records indicate the FBI did not want that bullet and didn't get it. I'd oike to find him. This man was on a street-rapiring crew.

None of this interests me for any writing I plan. I'm 66 now and want to find time for writing about other aspects. I don't know how much time impirments in both halves of the circulatory system permit to remain. But I do want to perfect the historical record and to develop evidence that might be of relevance if there ever is any kind of case for any court. If there is no statute of limitations on conspiracy to murder there should be such a prosecution if the proofs of the participants, other than proof of the fact of such a conspiracy, can ever be found. The evidence I now have that the crime was not and could not have been by a single man is overwhelming. My writing on this has stood the test of time and all records of any kind that have come out and all investigations and so-called investigations. Since the writing I've obtained only confirmation - no refutation.

The FBI was pretty uptight about that. They considered having an agent file a spurious libel suit again me but he and they chickened out. When I learned about it I gave him a written waiver of the running of the statute and dared him to sue. No response. Their records actually use the word "stop" with what they felt they had to do with my writing. First Amendment, FBI interpretation. They made up more wild stories! Even had my wife and me celebrating the Russian revolution over an annual religious picnic at a farm we had. Told this to LBJ when he got interested in the questions being asked in 1966.

The typing is worse than usual. Please excuse it. I had a radioactive injection in the right arm and it reacted strongly.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg